

# Haggai 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

## Analysis

**Then Zerubbabel... and Joshua... with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet** (וַיִּשְׁמָעוּ זְרֻבָבֶל... וְיֵהוֹשֻׁעַ... וְכָל שְׁאֵרֵי הָעָם בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם וְעַל־דְּבָרֵי חַגִּי הַנְּבִיא Zerubbabel... viYehoshua... vekhol she'erit ha'am bekol YHWH Eloheihem ve'al-divrei Chaggai hanavi)—the Hebrew שָׁמַע (shama) means both to hear and to obey—not passive listening but active response. Leadership (Zerubbabel, Joshua) and people together responded in unified obedience.

**As the LORD their God had sent him** (כַּאֲשֶׁר שְׁלָחוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם/ka'asher shelakho YHWH Eloheihem)—they recognized Haggai's divine commission. His message wasn't mere human opinion but God's authoritative word demanding response. This authenticates prophetic ministry: God sends, prophet speaks, people recognize divine authority and obey. **And the people did fear before the LORD** (וַיִּירָאוּ הָעָם מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה/vayir'u ha'am mipnei YHWH)—**fear** (יָרֵא/yare) here isn't terror but reverent awe, appropriate recognition of God's holiness, authority, and covenant relationship.

This verse demonstrates genuine repentance: convicted by God's word, they didn't debate, rationalize, or delay—they obeyed. The entire community—from governor

and high priest to common people—responded together. This contrasts with earlier stubbornness (v.2). What changed? God's word confronted them through prophetic preaching, the Holy Spirit convicted hearts (v.14), and they chose humble submission rather than prideful resistance.

## Historical Context

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This response came approximately three weeks after Haggai's first message (delivered on the first day of the sixth month, v.1; work resumed on the twenty-fourth day, v.15). That brief interval allowed time for the message to circulate, for leaders and people to process conviction, and for practical preparations to begin. The unified response—civil, religious, and common people together—demonstrated genuine spiritual awakening under God's sovereign work.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What characterizes genuine repentance—and how does immediate, concrete obedience distinguish true conviction from mere emotional response?
2. How do you respond when God's word confronts comfortable patterns, rationalizations, or priorities—with defensiveness or with humble submission?
3. What role does "fear of the LORD"—reverent awe, not terror—play in motivating obedience and sustaining faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּשְׁמַע	זֶרֶבְבָּד לֵאמֹר	בֶּן	שֶׁלְתִּיֵּל ל	וַיהוֹשֻׁעַ	בֶּן
obeyed	Then Zerubbabel	the son	of Shealtiel	and Joshua	the son
H8085	H2216	H1121	H7597	H3091	H1121
וַיְהוֹצִיֵּק	הַכֹּהֵן	הַגָּדוֹל	וְכָל	שְׂאֵר יֵת	הָעָם
of Josedeck	priest	the high	H3605	with all the remnant	him and the people
H3087	H3548	H1419		H7611	H5971
בְּקוֹל	יְהוָה:	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וְעַל	דִּבְרֵי	חַגִּי
the voice	as the LORD	their God	H5921	and the words	of Haggai
H6963	H3068	H430		H1697	H2292
כָּאֵשׁ	שָׁלַח וְ	יְהוָה:	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וַיִּירָא וְ	הָעָם
H834	had sent	as the LORD	their God	did fear	him and the people
	H7971	H3068	H430	H3372	H5971
מִפְנֵי	יְהוָה:				
before	as the LORD				
H6440	H3068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 50:10** (References God): Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

**Psalms 112:1** (Word): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

**Proverbs 1:7** (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Ezra 5:2** (Prophecy): Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.

**Haggai 1:14** (References God): And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** (Word): Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

**Haggai 2:2** (Parallel theme): Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,